

News Release



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Old Town San Diego State Historic Park leaps into the 21st Century!

Working in partnership with the California State Park Foundation, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park has created the first in a hopefully long running series of podcasts detailing aspects of history in early San Diego.

This initial podcast describes the history of the *Casa de Pico Motor Hotel*. It was written and recorded by Sean K.T. Shiraishi, local historian and Senior Park Aide with California State Parks. It was reviewed and commented upon by Victor Walsh, State Park Historian and produced by the generous support of the kind folks at Johnson and Johnson Architecture.

This snippet from the podcast places the building within the evolution of the hotel coupled with the Spanish Colonial tradition:

The Casa de Pico Motor Hotel, with rooms arranged around a central patio, represented a change from the more common auto courts of the day: small bungalows or cabins built around a central parking lot. In 1940 the *Tourist Court Journal* published a 4-page article on the structure just after the motel opened. Though Requa's original drawings have not been located as of this date, the article did provide a floor-plan of the motor court. The article described it as a "tourist court which faithfully follows the traditions of the hacienda for the early Spanish Dons."

To uncover further interesting facts concerning the *Casa de Pico Motor Hotel* and to hear the podcast for yourself, please visit the State Historic Park's website at www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego.

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